



Indiana State Department of Health

Epidemiology Resource Center

Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Program E-Newsletter

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Brittany M. Gross, MPH
Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator
bgross@isdh.in.gov
317-233-7627

What's Going On?

The Hepatitis Provider Inventory Survey was sent out on March 21. The information gathered from the survey will be provided in an Indiana Comprehensive Viral Hepatitis Resource Guide. If you have received this survey and completed it, thank you! If you have not completed it please complete it by April 12. Also, should you know anyone who did not but, should have received the survey please share the link. Should you have trouble or questions with the survey please contact me. Together we can provide a valuable resource to all Indiana residents affected by viral hepatitis. Thank you all!

Spotlight on...

ARK- Always Reflecting Kindness, Hepatitis C Support Group

ARK is a non-profit networking and support organization that is designed to reach out to those with hepatitis C, their family and friends. The mission of the ARK is to provide a Christian forum for support, motivation, education, networking and resources. For more information about the ARK, check out their website at www.hepcark.org

Upcoming Viral Hepatitis Events

➤ **May is Viral Hepatitis Awareness Month!**

- The CDC has developed and released e-cards on hepatitis that can be sent to friends, family or patients. To access the e-cards please click on the following link, <http://t.cdc.gov/ecards/browse.aspx?category=380>
- May 19 is National Hepatitis Testing Day
The CDC would like to know about any testing events planned in Indiana and will promote your testing event on their specific website. To register your testing day event, please go to <http://www.cdcnpin.org/htd/SubmitEvent.aspx>
Once you have registered your event, it will be displayed on an interactive CDC sponsored webpage, allowing people to look up events in their area. Check out the website at <http://www.cdcnpin.org/HTD/HTD.aspx>
- The Indiana State Department of Health will join the CDC in celebrating Viral Hepatitis Awareness month by highlighting one viral hepatitis infection each week. We will be posting elevator signs, web site prevention messages and utilizing social media.

➤ **Walk for Hep C to Help...Educate...Promote...Connect**

ARK is sponsoring a walk for hepatitis C to gain support. **The Walk will be May 18th 2013, at 5800 West Smith Valley Road, Greenwood, Indiana.** Registration opens at 8:00 a.m. The opening ceremony program will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m., and the walk will begin immediately afterward. For more information check out the ARK website at www.hepcark.org

Other Upcoming Events

➤ **Public Health Nurse Conference**

Join us on Thursday, May 9 and Friday May 10 for the 2013 Public Health Nurse Conference, “Renewing the Spirit: Refresh, Revitalize, Rejuvenate.” Come hear national and local speakers discuss the latest in clinical care and take part in the “Healthier You” sessions that focus on self-care and taking the time to take care of your mental and physical health. Registration is open and online at <http://isdhphn2013.eventbrite.com/>. Also, check out the agenda by clicking [LINK TO AGENDA](#)

Viral Hepatitis Updates & News

➤ **Rise in Hepatitis B Cases in Vietnam**

The Vietnam Association for the Study of Liver Diseases reports that incidence of hepatitis B is increasing among the Vietnamese population because the public is not well informed about hepatitis B symptoms or prevention, and the public health system does not have a hepatitis B prevention program. The chairman of the association stated that only 25% of Vietnamese newborns receive the recommended initial dose of hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth. The association estimates that 20% of the total population of Vietnam has hepatitis B, with an average of 35 new diagnoses each day. The number of 2012 hepatitis B diagnoses in Vietnam doubled from 2011. These findings certainly reinforce the need for continued monitoring of those infected with hepatitis B in our communities, especially those who may be pregnant, as well as the need to provide prevention information and resources.

➤ **Hepatitis C and Body Piercing**

Hepatitis C can be spread by blood to blood contact, and with the growing trend of piercings, it is important to understand the concerns and risk associated with piercing. To know more about the link between hepatitis C and piercing, click on the following link <http://bit.ly/Yrf6eL>

➤ **Hepatitis C**

According to a recently published study in the journal *Hepatology*, newly incarcerated offenders have a 1 percent acute hepatitis C prevalence. Additionally, the article states that a screening program of new inmates with IV drug history could identify thousands of hepatitis C cases annually. To read the overview of the information gathered, an abstract of this article, or request a copy of the study, go to http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2013-03/w-nih031913.php

➤ **Patient Dilemma: Treat Hepatitis C Now or Hold Out?**

“Being diagnosed with a potentially fatal disease usually triggers immediate treatment. But a growing number of people infected with hepatitis C are putting off therapy, choosing instead to roll the dice and wait for a new generation of drugs to become available” Read more at <http://on.wsj.com/YFuG6D>